REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2005. Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10 to 21, 23 to 25 and 27 to 30 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 18, 21, 25, 29 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 12 and 14 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,490,052 (Yanagidaira). Claims 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yanagidaira in vieiw of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,456 (Teng). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a network interface apparatus including a providing unit, a holding unit and a data obtaining unit. The providing unit provides display data necessary for constructing a picture plane for displaying or setting apparatus information of an image processing apparatus to an external apparatus. The holding unit holds language information indicative of a selected language among a plurality of languages. The data obtaining unit obtains the display data from the image processing apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane depends on the apparatus type of the image processing apparatus and obtains the display data from the network interface apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane does not depend on the apparatus type of the image processing apparatus. The data obtaining unit obtains the display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by the holding unit from the image processing apparatus and the providing unit provides that display data to the external apparatus.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a network interface apparatus which is connected to an image processing apparatus and

communicates with an external apparatus. The network interface apparatus comprises a providing unit adapted to provide display data necessary for constructing a picture plane for displaying or setting apparatus information of the image processing apparatus to the external apparatus, a holding unit adapted to hold language information indicative of a selected language among a plurality of kinds of languages, and a data obtaining unit adapted to obtain the display data from the image processing apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus and obtaining the display data from said network interface apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane does not depend on the apparatus type of the image processing apparatus. The data obtaining unit obtains the display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by the holding unit from the image processing apparatus and the providing unit provides the display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by said holding unit to the external apparatus.

Accordingly, Claim 1 includes the feature that when obtaining display data from the image processing apparatus, the network interface apparatus obtains the display data corresponding to a language selected from among a plurality of languages from the image processing apparatus and provides the obtained display data to the external apparatus.

In contrast, Yanagidaira discloses a print system including a print server and a printer. A language monitor provided in the print server obtains an operating state of the printer and records information indicative of the state in a printer information database. The print server then makes a HTML file based on information stored in the printer information database and sends the HTML file to a client apparatus.

However, Yanagidaira fails to disclose a holding unit, which holds language information indicative of a language selected from among a plurality of languages. Furthermore, Yanagidaira fails to disclose that a language monitor obtains display data corresponding to a selected language from the printer, and sends such display data to the client apparatus.

In an apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, it is possible to obtain display data corresponding to English, for example, and display data corresponding to Japanese, for example, from the image processing apparatus and to provide the display data to the external apparatus. In contrast, an apparatus in accordance with the disclosures of Yanagidaira does not have such a technical advantage because such an apparatus does not include a holding unit holding language information indicative of a language selected from among a plurality of languages and a language monitor obtaining display data corresponding to a selected language from the printer.

In light of the deficiencies of Yanagidaira as discussed above, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 15 is directed to an image processing apparatus substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 1. Amended independent Claim 21 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 1. Claim 29 is directed to a program executed by a computer substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 15, 21 and 29 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 8 as amended is directed to a network interface apparatus comprising a proving unit, an obtaining unit and a data obtaining unit. The providing unit provides display data necessary for constructing a picture plane for displaying or setting apparatus information of

an image processing apparatus to an external apparatus. The obtaining unit obtains shipping destination information showing to which place the image processing apparatus is shipped. The data obtaining unit obtains the display data from the image processing apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus and obtains the display data from the network interface apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane does not depend on the apparatus type of the image processing apparatus. The data obtaining unit obtains the display data corresponding to the shipping destination shown by the shipping destination information obtained by the obtaining unit from the image processing apparatus and the providing unit provides that display data to the external apparatus.

Accordingly, a feature of Claim 8 is that when obtaining display data from the image processing apparatus, the network interface apparatus obtains the display data corresponding to a shipping destination of the image processing apparatus from the image processing apparatus and provides the obtained display data to the external apparatus.

In contrast, Yanagidaira fails to disclose the claimed obtaining unit, which obtains shipping destination information showing to which place the image processing apparatus is shipped. Furthermore, Yanagidaira fails to disclose a language monitor that obtains display data corresponding to a shipping destination from the printer, and sends such display data to the client apparatus.

Furthermore, Teng discloses a network server that sends various display data relating to a printer to a network client in response a request from the client. However, Teng is entirely silent in regard to either an obtaining unit which obtains shipping destination information showing to which place the image processing apparatus is shipped or a language monitor that

obtains display data corresponding to a shipping destination from the printer, and sends such display data to the client apparatus.

In an apparatus in accordance with Claim 8, it is possible to obtain the display data corresponding to U.S.A., for example, and the display data corresponding to Japan, for example, from the image processing apparatus and to provide the display data to the external apparatus. Yanagidaira and Teng, neither alone nor in combination, neither disclose nor suggest an apparatus capable of obtaining such a technical advantage.

In light of the deficiencies of Yanagidaira and Teng as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 8 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 18 is directed to an image processing apparatus substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 8. Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 8. Claim 30 is directed to a program executed by a computer substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 18, 25 and 30 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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